GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:346
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
INCIDENCE OF TB AMONG HOSPITAL STAFF
CHINTAMAN NAVSHA WANAGA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of employees have been suffering from TB in LRS Institute of Tuerculosis and allied diseases in Delhi as reported in `The Hindustan Times` dated August 09, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the position in regard to other TB hospitals in India; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): No, Sir. There is no authentic data/information in India to suggest that there is rise of TB among hospital staff.The estimated incidence of TB in the country is 0.22% per annum. So far as LRS Institute of TB and Allied Diseases, Delhi, referred in `The Hindustan Times` dated August 09, 2002 is concerned, only 30 employees out of 600 had suffered from TB at some time or other during past more than 15 years. Only on out of four patients, mentioned in the Newspaper report, has actually died of TB.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) There are well defined guidelines for prevention of hospital acquired infection for implementation by the hospitals. So far LRS Institute of TB and Allied Diseases, Delhi referred in `The Hindustan Times` dated August 09, 2002 is concerned, the steps taken by the authorities are placed at Annex.-1.

Annexure-I

The following Steps have been taken at LRS Institute of TB & Allied Diseases, Delhi to prevent spread of infection among hospital staff:

1) The health workers handling infectious agents at all levels are provided with gloves, masks and for processing the samples they are provided high quality class-I biological safety cabinets which have in built ultra violet light and with HEPA filters.

2) In the washing room in the Microbiological department all infected material is made non-infectious by auto claving prior to washing.

3) All the staff has been given training (including Class III & IV staff) in handling infectious and non-infectious material including bio medical waste.

4) Weekly inspection by the waste management team in carried out in the Institute to ensure that policy in this regard is followed.

5) All necessary arrangements in Public places have been made (OPD/Hospital compound) for proper disposal of waste by general public/patients/relatives and health education announcements are made in the OPD daily. Health education talks/skits are done on regular basis for awareness for staff/patients and their relatives.

6) The Institute has fully approved waste management system by Delhi Pollution Control Board.

7) All the sputum collection containers are boiled as per standard norms before discarding sputum on routine basis.

8) The hospital infectious waste disposal is specifically looked into by the Senior Administrative staff during their daily inspection rounds.